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REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendment to the claims can be found, e.g., at E5 and E 32/33 of table 1).

Claims 20-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Sobata, which corresponds to EP 0 454 361 mentioned at page 3 of the office action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that Sobata does not specifically disclose that the value of the free acid KCl is kept in the range of 1.6 to 2.8 as presently claimed. Therefore, the rejection does not apply to the presently pending claims.

Also, the features of new claims 39-40 are not believed to be disclosed either.

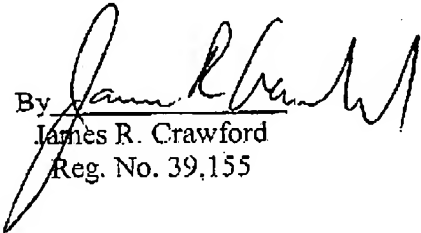
Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

The provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections will be addressed upon the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-DNAG-297-US.

Respectfully submitted

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